

Application No.: 10/573,877

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MAY 20 2008AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A linear light source comprising:
a square rod-shaped wiring board having a component side;
a plurality of light emitting elements which are arranged on the component side of the wiring board at certain intervals along the longitudinal direction of the wiring board and die-bonded thereto; and
a plurality of reflectors which are arranged at both sides of each of the light emitting elements on the component side of the wiring board such that the reflectors and the light emitting elements are arranged alternately; wherein
adjacent two reflectors have opposing surfaces facing each other with the light emitting element sandwiched therebetween, ~~[[and]]~~
the opposing surfaces of the reflectors are inclined such that the distance between the opposing surfaces increases in the direction of light emitted out of the light emitting element, and recesses are formed, each of which is defined by the component side of the wiring board and the adjacent two reflectors arranged at both sides of each of the light emitting elements, and the recess has side walls in the longitudinal direction of the wiring board and does not have side walls in the width direction of the wiring board intersecting with the longitudinal direction.
2. (Original) A linear light source according to claim 1, wherein the opposing surfaces of the reflectors are rectangular or trapezoidal in shape.
3. (Currently Amended) A linear light source according to claim 1 further comprising resin seal layers which are formed by filling the recesses, ~~each of which is defined by the component side of the wiring board, the light emitting element and the opposing surfaces of~~

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~~the reflectors arranged at both sides of the light emitting element,~~ with a light-transmissive resin sealant.

4. (Original) A linear light source according to claim 3, wherein the end faces of each of the resin seal layers contacting the wiring board and the reflectors are mirror-finished.

5. (Previously presented) A linear light source according to claim 3, wherein the end faces of the resin seal layers opposite to those facing the wiring board are substantially flush with the end faces of the reflectors to provide a single plane.

6. (Previously presented) A linear light source according to claim 1 further comprising a reflection member which is arranged on a region ranging from the end face of the wiring board adjoining to the component side and extending in the longitudinal direction to the tips of the opposing surfaces of the reflectors, the reflection member being made of a reflection sheet or a vapor-deposited film.

7. (Previously presented) A method for manufacturing a linear light source comprising the steps of:

(a) die-bonding light emitting elements which are arranged on a component side of a wiring board at certain intervals;

(b) providing, on the component side of the wiring board, a reflector plate which is configured such that reflectors are arranged at both sides of each of the light emitting elements

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and the opposing surfaces of the reflectors are inclined such that the distance between the opposing surfaces increases in the direction of light emitted out of the light emitting element;

(c) filling recesses, each of which is defined by the component side of the wiring board, the light emitting element and the opposing surfaces of the reflectors arranged at both sides of the light emitting element, with a light-transmissive resin sealant after the steps (a) and (b); and

(d) cutting a square rod-shaped linear light source from the obtained product such that the reflectors are arranged at both sides of each of the light emitting elements to be arranged alternately with the light emitting elements.

8. (Original) A method for manufacturing a linear light source according to claim 7, wherein in the step (d), the obtained product is cut from the back of the wiring board using a blade having a tip in the form of an isosceles triangle when viewed in section such that the square rod-shaped light source has a trapezoidal section.

9. (Currently amended) A surface light emitting device comprising:
a wiring board; a linear light source ~~light-emitting elements electrically connected to the wiring board;~~ and a light guide plate which captures light from the linear light source ~~light emitting elements~~ and emits the light from almost the entire surface thereof,

wherein the linear light source has:

a square rod-shaped wiring board having a component side;

a plurality of light emitting elements which are arranged on the component side of the wiring board at certain intervals along the longitudinal direction of the wiring board and die-bonded thereto; and

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a plurality of reflectors which are arranged at both sides of each of the light emitting elements on the component side of the wiring board such that the reflectors and the light emitting elements are arranged alternately,

wherein adjacent two reflectors have opposing surfaces facing each other with the light emitting element sandwiched therebetween,

the opposing surfaces of the reflectors are inclined such that the distance between the opposing surfaces increases in the direction of light emitted out of the light emitting element, and

recesses are formed, each of which is defined by the component side of the wiring board and the adjacent two reflectors arranged at both sides of each of the light emitting elements, and

the recess has side walls in the longitudinal direction of the wiring board and does not have side walls in the width direction of the wiring board intersecting with the longitudinal direction ~~light emitting elements are die bonded to the wiring board such that the light exit faces of the light emitting elements are parallel to the side surface of the light guide plate.~~

10. (Currently amended) A surface light emitting device according to claim 9, wherein the centers of the light exit faces of the light emitting elements are at the same level as the longitudinal center line of the side surface of the light guide plate.

11. (Currently amended) A surface light emitting device according to claim 9, wherein the wiring board is shaped into a square rod corresponding to the thickness of the light guide plate and the longitudinal axis of the wiring board is parallel to the side surface of the light guide plate.